

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, after the title insert the following:

This application is the US national phase of international application **PCT/EP2003/004214** filed **23 April 2003** which designated the U.S. and claims benefit of **IT BO2002A000683**, filed **31 October 2002**. The entire contents of these applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1 line 14, as follows:

These devices are generally constituted by a rotating disk on which concave cup-like elements are distributed peripherally; said cups move along a circular path that is substantially tangent to the orifice for the outflow of the plastic material from the extruder; in their motion, the cups remove from said orifice, by scraping, preset quantities of plastic material, subsequently unloading them with the aid of pneumatic or mechanical means ~~means devices~~ into respective cavities provided in the carousel, where they are then compressed in order to form the articles.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 9, as follows:

This aim and these and other objects that will become better apparent hereinafter, are achieved by the present device for removing doses of plastic material from an extruder by means of at least one removal element that can move with respect to said extruder and is provided with a receptacle for a dose removed from the outflow orifice of said extruder, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said removal element comprises a severing

element that is adapted to cut into the plastic material dispensed by said extruder along a severing edge that advances through the material from one side of said orifice to the other, and ~~in that~~ said receptacle is shaped so as to accommodate said dose and allow its expulsion substantially in the direction of said severing edge.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 23, as follows:

Further features and advantages will become better apparent from the detailed description of some ~~preferred~~ embodiments of the invention, illustrated only by way of non-limitative example in the accompanying drawings, ~~wherein~~ in which:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4 line 21, as follows:

A back wall 12 is rigidly coupled to the base 9 and is perpendicular thereto and substantially radial with respect to the axis D. A side wall 13 and respectively a severing or cutting element 14, ~~preferably~~ that could be constituted by a blade, are fixed to the opposite ends of the wall 12, and form a receptacle 15 that is open, in the direction G of the rotation of the disk 7, toward the region where the doses 6 of plastic material are removed. ~~Advantageously, the~~ The blade 14 has a cutting or severing edge 14a that could be ~~is~~ perpendicular to the disk 7 and is fixed so that it is possible to adjust the distance of the cutting edge 14a from the back wall 12.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5 line 6, as follows:

The rotating disk 7 is actuated by way of an adapted motor and a transmission means device of the belt or gear type, which are not shown since they are fully conventional.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6 line 15, as follows:

~~Advantageously, the~~ The blade 14 and the receptacle 15 ~~are~~ could be orientated with respect to the orifice 24b so that the dose 6 can be easily accommodated in the receptacle 15, where it is retained by the surfaces of the walls 12, 13 and of the blade 14.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6 line 20, as follows:

A fundamental prerogative of the device according to the invention consists of the fact that the arrangement of the blade 14 at right angles to the disk 7 allows to provide a receptacle 15 which, in addition to being open frontally, i.e. in the direction G toward the extruder 23, in order to receive the dose 6, is also open vertically downward so as to allow to unload the dose into the respective recess 5 of the carousel 2 by using an expulsion ~~means device~~ that consist of a jet of compressed air, possibly assisted by the mechanical action of a piston, as described in the cited US patent no. 5,807,598.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7 line 32, as follows:

Figure 8 illustrates a third variation, in which the removal elements 8 are provided with a device means for retaining and releasing the doses 6. For this purpose, the side wall 13, which delimits the receptacle 15 on the opposite side with respect to the blade 14, is

movable and is connected to the back wall 12 by means of an elastic lamina 30, which allows its articulation with respect to the back wall 12 between a first end position and a second end position. The position of the side wall 13 is controlled by a cam follower, which is constituted by an arm 31 that is rigidly coupled to the wall 13 and supports, at its end, a roller 32 that engages on the profile of a stationary cam 33 that is concentric to the axis D. The profile of the cam 33 is shaped so that when the blade 14 has cut the dose 6, the side wall 13 is orientated toward the blade 14 in the first end position, so as to grip and retain the dose.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10 line 6, as follows:

Figure 14 illustrates an eighth ~~preferred~~ variation of the device according to the invention, in which the end of the stem of the pneumatic piston 42 of each removal element 8, ~~preferably~~ that could be of the double-acting type, is directly and rigidly connected to the side wall 13.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 10 line 32.